

CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT
Pols 160a – Fall 2009
Professor Lawrence Quill
San Jose State University

LECTURES HELD:
Mon/Wed 10:30-11:45
DMH 161

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon/Wed 1:00-2:30
Clark Hall, 402E
(408) 924-5563
lawrence.quill@sjsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Classical Political Thought introduces students to some of the great debates that shaped the political heritage of the west. We examine some of the most influential works of political thought from Greece during the period of Athenian Imperialism/Democracy in the 5th Century BCE, from Rome at the twilight of the Republic, and contributions from both the Hebrew and Christian traditions.

PREREQUISITES

Students should be aware that this is a reading and writing intensive course. All students need some background in the critical reading of original texts. Political Science 3 is the suggested prerequisite, but philosophy, literature, and history courses offer sufficient practice in reading original sources.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Plato, *The Republic*
Aristotle, *The Politics*
Sophocles, *Antigone*
Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*
Cicero, *Against Verres; On the State; On Duties*
Seneca, *On Private Life; On the Shortness of Life; On Mercy*
Selections from the Old and New Testament

Students are required to check the website each week for specific reading assignments and additional handouts.

WEBSITE

<http://web.me.com/lrq/Classical> (case sensitive!) login: spartans password: spartans

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The B.A. in Political Science requires majors to take a minimum of one upper division course in political thought. This course fulfills the requirement, and counts towards the normal total of upper division courses. This course is not designed only for political science students. Students from many other majors have proven that they can do as well in this course as the Political Science majors.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

First Essay (30%)
Second Essay (30%)
Midterm (15%)
Final Examination (15%)
Class Participation (10%)

Students are required to check the website every week for instructions regarding essays and exams. Missed or late assignments receive an automatic F.

CALENDAR

Monday	
8/24	Introduction
8/31	Plato
9/7	No Class
9/14	Plato
9/21	Aristotle
9/28	Aristotle
10/5	Sophocles
10/12	Aristophanes
10/19	Class Cancelled
10/26	Cicero Midterm Due In Class
11/2	Cicero
11/9	Seneca
11/16	Seneca
11/23	Old Testament
11/30	New Testament
12/7	Revision Session Second Essay Due in Class

Wednesday	
8/26	Plato
9/2	Plato
9/9	Plato
9/16	Plato
9/23	Aristotle
9/30	Aristotle
10/7	Sophocles
10/14	Aristophanes
10/21	Essay Due Take Home Midterm
10/28	Cicero
11/4	Cicero
11/11	Class Cancelled
11/18	Seneca
11/25	Old Testament
12/2	New Testament
Final	See Website for Instructions

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

CAMPUS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

See <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm> about Academic Senate Policy S90-5

PLAGIARISM

See http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct (Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Dev)

DEPARTMENTAL WRITING POLICY

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm.

For assistance, the SJSU Writing Center is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. It is your responsibility to arrange a time to meet with the instructors. Consult with your professor in advance to determine whether you need assistance with your writing.

Arguably the best way to improve your own writing is to read quality material on a regular basis. To that end, students are encouraged to read articles from scholarly sources but also newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, The New York Times, and The Economist. These publications also contain articles of direct relevance to their political science classes.

QUESTIONS?

Finally, if you get stuck, feel overwhelmed, or just want to clarify something from the reading or lectures, ask me. I am here to help.